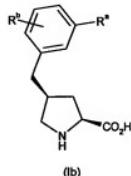


IN THE CLAIMS

1. – 14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (Ib):



wherein R^a is selected from halogen, hydroxy, cyano, nitro, amino, hydroxycarbonyl, C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₁-C₆ alkenyl, C₁-C₆ alkynyl, hydroxyC₁-C₆ alkyl, C₁-C₆ alkoxyC₁-C₆ alkyl, perfluoroC₁-C₆ alkoxy, C₁-C₆ alkylamino, di-C₁-C₆ alkylamino, aminoC₁-C₆ alkyl, C₁-C₆ alkylaminoC₁-C₆ alkyl, and C₄-C₆ acyl, C₄-C₆ acyloxy, C₄-C₆ acyloxyC₁-C₆ alkyl, di-C₄-C₆ alkylaminoC₁-C₆ alkyl, and C₄-C₆ acyl, C₄-C₆ acyloxy, C₄-C₆ acyloxyC₁-C₆ alkylthio, C₄-C₆ alkylthiocarbonyl, C₄-C₆ alkylthio, C₄-C₆ alkylsulfonyl, C₄-C₆ alkylsulfonylamino, aminosulfonyl, C₄-C₆ alkylaminosulfonyl, di-C₄-C₆ alkylaminosulfonyl, 3-8 membered cyclicalkyl, 4-8 membered heterocyclicalkyl, phenyl and monocyclic heteroaryl;

R^b is selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy cyano, nitro, amino, hydroxycarbonyl, C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₁-C₆ alkenyl, C₁-C₆ alkynyl, C₁-C₆ alkoxy, hydroxyC₁-C₆ alkyl, C₁-C₆ alkoxyC₁-C₆ alkyl, perfluoro C₁-C₆ alkyl, perfluoroC₁-C₆ alkoxy, C₁-C₆ alkylamino, di-C₁-C₆ alkylamino, aminoC₁-C₆ alkyl, C₁-C₆ alkylaminoC₁-C₆ alkyl, di-C₁-C₆ alkylaminoC₁-C₆ alkyl, and C₄-C₆ acyl, C₄-C₆ acyloxy, C₄-C₆ acyloxyC₁-C₆ alkyl, C₄-C₆ acyl, C₄-C₆ acyloxy, C₄-C₆ acyloxyC₁-C₆ alkylthio, C₄-C₆ alkylthiocarbonyl, C₄-C₆ alkylthio, C₄-C₆ alkoxycarbonyl, C₄-C₆ alkylsulfonyl, C₄-C₆ alkylsulfonylamino, aminosulfonyl, C₄-C₆ alkylaminosulfonyl, di-C₄-C₆ alkylaminosulfonyl, 3-8 membered cycloalkyl, 4-8 membered heterocycloalkyl, phenyl and monocyclic heteroaryl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

16. -17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (1b) according to claim 15 which is selected from the group consisting of:
(2S,4S)-4-(3-Fluoro-benzyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid;
(2S,4S)-4-(2,3-Difluoro-benzyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid; and

(2S,4S)-4-(2,5-Difluoro-benzyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (1b) according to claim 15, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, diluents or carriers.

21. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (1b) according to claim 15, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and at least one other therapeutically active agent.

22. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition combination according to claim 21, wherein the other therapeutically active agent is a PDEV inhibitor selected from sildenafil, vardenafil, tadalafil, 1-[6-ethoxy-5-[3-ethyl-6,7-dihydro-2-(methoxyethyl)-7-oxo-2H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-5-yl]-3-pyridylsulfonyl]-4-ethylpiperazine, 5-(5-acetyl-2-butoxy-3-pyridinyl)-3-ethyl-2-(1-ethyl-3-azetidinyl)-2,6-dihydro-7*H*-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-7-one and 5-[2-ethoxy-5-(4-ethylpiperazin-1-ylsulphonyl)pyridin-3-yl]-3-ethyl-2-[2-methoxyethyl]-2,6-dihydro-7*H*-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-7-one.

23. - 26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Presented) The compound (2S,4S)-4-(3-Fluoro-benzyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

28. (Withdrawn) The compound (2S,4S)-4-(2,3-Difluoro-benzyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

29. (Withdrawn) The compound (2S,4S)-4-(2,5-Difluoro-benzyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

30. (New) The salt, (2S,4S)-4-(3-Fluoro-benzyl)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid mono hydrochloride salt.